

MR. FIDEL: Good afternoon. My name is Mike Fidel [phonetic]. I represent myself, my family, and my coalmining friends. I've been in mining for 41 years. The majority of that time in the coal mines. Make no mistake, this latest effort by the BLM is another outrageous attempt by this failed administration to ensure that the mandate made on November 5th, 2008, to bankrupt the coal industry is carried out. 72,000 megawatts of responsible, affordable coal-generated electricity has been, or is scheduled to be, eliminated by overreaching government regulations based on the zealot religion of climate change, formally known as global cooling, formally known as global warming, carbon reduction, lease moratorium, fair market value. But, probably the most outlandish government scheme is the regional haze [indiscernible]. Project Mojave was a 20-year EPA study to evaluate the haze impact of the Grand Canyon from alleged emissions by the Mojave Power Station near Lawson, Nevada. As a result of this study in 1998, the EPA pressured by the sue and subtle, hypocritical, environmental primitives order Mohave to install [indiscernible] to reduce haze in the Grand Canyon. Mojave and their customers could not afford the \$1 billion price tag. The plant was shut down in 2005. In 2010, an independent postmortem study by Berkley Economic Consulting in the San Francisco State University was conducted to determine the haze reduction with the Mohave shutdown. The results of the shutdown concluded that mean visibility [indiscernible] in light distinction in the Grand Canyon National Park did not respond to the plant closure in the statistically significant [indiscernible]. Really? Four hundred direct plant jobs lost, 400 direct money jobs lost, countless supporting jobs lost, millions of revenue dollars lost for, "no evidence that the Mojave Power Plant closure improved visibility in the Grand Canyon". Oh, by the way, electricity prices increased in that region over 15 percent. The bottom line, the EPA science is wrong. Their engineering is wrong. Their modeling is wrong. Their decision was made on wrong data. And wrong data is no data. A decision made on no data is nothing more than arbitrary and capricious. What is even more outrageous is it's the same modeling software [indiscernible] EPA used on Mojave was used for the pending 2017 closure of the units two and three at the San Juan Generating Station near Farmington, New Mexico, which last week was responsible for the loss of over 100 mining jobs.

Here, again, another community devastated, families devastated, charity organizations devastated, numerous support jobs devastated. And now the EPA will, again, use the reckless process by ordering implementation of [indiscernible] on the Hunter and Huntington Plants in Utah. We the coalminers, we the coal industry, don't want handouts or subsidies, as would the renewable industry. All they want is to compete in a fair, open market. Let the market dictate our fate and that of our competition. That is the real America. And that is what will make America great again. Nobody opposes clean air, pristine lands, clean water. The reality is we already have it. To my coalmining brothers and sisters, take the high road, stay the course, continue to work hard, continue to [indiscernible] affordable energy without hand [indiscernible]. And rest assured this mandate on killing coal is short lived. Only 212 days left. But, sad to say, the resulting negative impacts will be felt for a generation or more. That's all.